

## **APRIL 2009 PRESS RELEASES**

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For immediate release: Apr 06, 2009  
Posted by: [DHS]  
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### **Federal Public Assistance Approved for 6 Additional Indiana Counties**

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INDIANAPOLIS (April 6, 2009)-- Governor Mitch Daniels has received word that President Barack Obama has approved six additional counties for federal public assistance for damage sustained from severe weather that began January 26.

The additional counties approved for federal public assistance are: Jennings, Lawrence, Ohio, Posey, Ripley and Scott.

Public assistance means state government and local governments and certain non-profit organizations in these counties are eligible to apply for federal assistance to pay 75 percent of the approved cost of debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster and repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, buildings and electrical cooperatives.

On March 5, the counties of Clark, Crawford, Dubois, Floyd, Gibson, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Orange, Perry, Spencer, Switzerland, Vanderburgh, Warrick and Washington were approved for federal public assistance.

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### **Thirteen Counties Approved for Federal Assistance**

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INDIANAPOLIS – Governor Mitch Daniels received word today that President Barack Obama has approved federal assistance for homeowners, renters and businesses damaged in 13 counties by severe weather that occurred March 8-14.

They are Allen, Carroll, DeKalb, Fulton, Jasper, Kosciusko, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Noble, Pulaski, White and Whitley counties.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) individual assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster. Federal funding is also available on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide.

Residents and business owners who sustained losses in those counties can begin applying for FEMA assistance immediately by registering online at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers are available 8 a.m.-6 p.m. local time, seven days a week.

On Sunday, March 8, severe storms broke out, spawning three tornadoes, high winds and torrential rainfall. Nearly eight inches of rain fell during a 72-hour period in some locations. Heavy rain on frozen and partially frozen ground quickly led to flooding conditions.

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### **State Officials Closely Monitor Human Cases of Influenza A (H1N1)**

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) are closely monitoring human cases of influenza A (H1N1) virus infection identified in the United States.

In addition to intensifying surveillance among flu sentinel physicians in the state, the Indiana State Department of Health has also sent information out to public health workers over the Indiana Health Alert Network and will share with physicians the interim guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The IDHS is urging public safety professionals, including paramedics, EMTs, police officers, firefighters, and emergency management workers, to take necessary precautions to safeguard their health as they interact and preserve the safety of the public.

"It's too early to be classified as a pandemic," said Joe Wainscott, executive director of the IDHS. "Each of us can make a difference. Limiting contact with others can help slow the spread of illness. Together, we can help protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. In most instances of the flu, those suffering can be cared for at home. Be aware, plan ahead, and share with others what you have learned."

"We advise Hoosiers to stay calm and practice normal precautions to avoid influenza and other respiratory diseases. If you have milder symptoms of influenza, we advise you to stay home and contact your health care provider for advice," said State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe M.D.

"This is a novel human virus, which means we do not have a vaccine to prevent it," said Dr. Monroe. "Individuals aged 65 and older or those with chronic diseases and immune deficiencies are at higher risk for severe complications from influenza, including pneumonia. If these individuals have not received the pneumococcal vaccine, they should discuss with their physician getting the vaccine."

The symptoms of influenza in people are expected to be similar to the symptoms of regular human seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Some people with this flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Dr. Monroe reminds the public to follow basic precautionary measures to prevent the spread of a cold, influenza, or any infectious disease, including:

- . Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve, rather than your hands, if a tissue is not available.
- . Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- . Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- . If you get sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- . Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

State health officials note influenza viruses are not transmitted by food. You cannot get this influenza from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork and pork products is safe. Cooking pork to an internal temperature of 160°F kills the flu virus as it does other bacteria and viruses.

Investigations are ongoing to determine the source of the infection and whether additional people have been infected with similar influenza viruses. The CDC is working very closely with state and local officials in affected states, as well as with health officials in Mexico, Canada and the World Health Organization. The CDC has determined this virus is contagious and is spreading from human to human. However, at this time, they have not determined how easily the virus spreads between people.

This Influenza is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza virus that regularly causes outbreaks of influenza in pigs. These flu viruses do not normally infect humans. However, sporadic human infections with this type of flu have occurred. Most commonly, these cases occur in persons with direct exposure to pigs.

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## **State Officials Tour State to Spread Information About Influenza A (H1N1) Virus**

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Indiana Department of Homeland Security Executive Director Joe Wainscott and Indiana State Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Judy Monroe will be in the following locations on Tuesday, April 28 to discuss the influenza A (H1N1) virus.

Tuesday, April 28

1:00-2:00 pm EST - Terre Haute Press Conference (Union Hospital)

2:15 pm EST - Depart Terre Haute for Evansville

2:30-3:15 pm CST - Evansville Press Conference (Vanderburgh County Health Department)

3:30 pm CST - Depart Evansville for Indianapolis

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For immediate release: Apr 28, 2009  
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## **Indiana Human Influenza A (H1N1) Update**

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INDIANAPOLIS - State officials report the confirmed case of North America human influenza A (H1N1) was a student at Notre Dame in St. Joseph County, Indiana. More information will be provided, as it becomes available.

"We want the public to know they should be concerned, but not alarmed," said State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe M.D. Follow all normal precautions to avoid the flu, including hand washing and covering your mouth when you sneeze or cough. Also, please stay home from work or school if you're sick."

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## **State Officials to Make Announcement on North America Human Influenza A (H1N1)**

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INDIANAPOLIS---The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) will hold a media briefing today to make an important announcement regarding the current outbreak of North America Human Influenza A (H1N1) in the United States.

WHO: State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe, M.D.  
Joe Wainscott, executive director, IDHS

WHEN: Tuesday, April 28, 2009  
11:00 a.m. (EST)

WHERE: Indiana Government Center South, Auditorium  
402 W. Washington St., downtown Indianapolis

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## **Indiana Reports Confirmed Case of North America Human Influenza A (H1N1)**

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INDIANAPOLIS---State health officials report test results from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have confirmed a case of North America Human Influenza A (H1N1) in northern Indiana.

"We advise Hoosiers to practice normal precautions to avoid influenza and other respiratory diseases, such as frequent hand washing and covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze," said State Health Commissioner Judy Monroe M.D.

Dr. Monroe reminds the public to follow basic precautionary measures to prevent the spread of a cold, influenza, or any infectious disease, including:

- . Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the

tissue in the trash after you use it. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve, rather than your hands, if a tissue is not available.

- . Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- . Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- . If you get sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

The symptoms of North American human influenza A (H1N1) are similar to the symptoms of regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Some people have also reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Dr. Monroe recommends individuals with mild symptoms of influenza should stay home and call their health care provider for advice. If symptoms become severe, such as high fever, trouble breathing, or inability to keep down fluids, they should seek medical care.

Parents are also reminded they should not give aspirin to children with flu symptoms to alleviate fever, as it can put them at risk for Reye syndrome, a potentially fatal disease that causes numerous detrimental effects to many organs, especially the brain and liver.

"This is a novel human virus, which means we do not have a vaccine to prevent it," said Dr. Monroe. "Individuals aged 65 and older or those with chronic diseases and immune deficiencies are at higher risk for severe complications from influenza, including pneumonia. If these individuals have not received the pneumococcal vaccine, they should discuss with their physician getting the vaccine."

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security announced the state's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) became active this morning

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## **Toll-Free Number Established for Questions Regarding North America Human Influenza A**

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INDIANAPOLIS - State officials have set up a toll-free hotline for questions on the North America Human Influenza A (H1N1). The number is 877-826-0011 and will be open from 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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## **U.S. Pork Supply Remains Safe**

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INDIANAPOLIS -- Consumers can take confidence in the safety of the U.S. pork supply and the products they eat, even in light of the recent influenza health concerns.

"Influenza is not spread via meat or meat products; therefore, pork is safe to eat," says Indiana State Veterinarian Bret D. Marsh. "As always, we remind consumers of normal food safety precautions, including handling meat products to avoid cross contamination and to cook them to an internal temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit. People just need to know that influenza is not a food safety threat."

Dr. Marsh explains that sick animals are rejected from the human food supply when they are presented for inspection at a processing facility. Inspectors from the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are trained to spot any signs of illness or abnormality that would require an animal to be rejected.

While influenza is not an uncommon disease in swine, the Influenza A (H1N1)/North America/human virus has not been identified in any hogs in the United States. Nor have any of the human cases in this country been linked to direct contact with pigs.

BOAH continues to work closely with pork producers, veterinarians and laboratories to monitor the Indiana swine population for any unusual signs of disease.

Consumers can visit the [www.IN.gov/flu](http://www.IN.gov/flu) for more information.

For other questions, citizens can call the Influenza A (H1N1) information line toll-free at (877) 826-0011 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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## **State Officials Clarify Name of Influenza A (H1N1) Virus**

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INDIANAPOLIS - State officials are encouraging media outlets to use Influenza A (H1N1)/North America/Human when referring to the current influenza strain, rather than swine flu.

The virus causing the current influenza outbreak is not a virus that normally infects pigs, but a combination of human, swine and bird viruses. The flu virus causing the current outbreak, now called Influenza A (H1N1)/North America/Human, has adapted itself to be easily transmitted from person-to-person.

Swine in the United States have not been and are not infected with this virus. Pork that is properly cooked continues to be safe for consumption. For more information, visit the Indiana State Department of Health Web site at [www.H1N1.in.gov](http://www.H1N1.in.gov).

Media will be able to contact a public information officer at the EOC at (317) 234-6713 or (317) 233-7090.

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### **State Officials Announce Toll-free Hotline Weekend Hours**

State officials announce the toll-free hotline for the public who have questions on the North American Human Influenza A (H1N1) will remain open this weekend (5/2-5/3) from 8:00 am – 4:45 pm (EDT) on both Saturday and Sunday. The number is 1-877-826-0011. Please note, this hotline is NOT intended for people to use to ask medical advice on symptoms. Please call your health care provider if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms.

The toll-free hotline for health care providers, 1-866-233-1237, will also be open this weekend from 8:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Please note, this hotline is for health care providers, only, and not for their patients or the media.

Media calls should be directed to the Emergency Operations Center at (317) 234-6713

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